



DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Helpful Definitions

SUPPRESSION - Permanent closure of a parish entity.

ALIENATION - The transfer, sale, or reduction of the value of Church property.

RELEGATION TO PROFANE USE - Permanent closure of a church building. The Church building will no longer be used for worship; any remaining sacred items are removed.

EXTINCTIVE UNION - One or more parishes are joined to form a single parish, also called a Parish Merger.

WHAT IS A SARAMENTAL PRACTICE?

- 1) Regular celebration of religious services – reduced Mass schedule and confessions are available.
- 2) The administration of the sacraments (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation & Marriage).
- 3) Religious Education and Faith Formation of the youth.

ORATORY - Sometimes called a “mission”, this refers to an active and functioning church building that belonged to a parish entity that is no longer in existence (whether through suppression or extinctive union).